tourist operators are protected and those who misuse are put out of the roads by suitable legislation.

Sri C. K. RAJAIAH SHETTY.—Is it not a fact that the Government is tolerating these private buses which are running just because the M.S.R.T.C. is not having enough buses ?

Sri MOHAMED ALI.—No Sir, The M.S.R.T.C. has got a big programme of augmenting the services.

ಶ್ರೀ ಬಿ. ದೊಡ್ಡಬೋರೇಗೌಡ.—ರಾಜ್ಯದಲ್ಲಿ ಖಾಸಗೀ ಬಸ್ಸುಗಳು ಸರ್ಕಾರೀ ಬಸ್ಸಿಗಿಂತ ಬಹಳ ಕಡಿಮೆ ದರದಲ್ಲಿಯೂ ಮತ್ತು ವೇಳೆಗೆ ಸರಿಯಾಗಿಯೂ ಪ್ರಯಾಣಿಕರನ್ನು ಒಯ್ಯುವುದರಿಂದ, ನಿಮ್ಮ ಬಸ್ಸುಗಳಿಗೆ ನಷ್ಟವಾಗುವುದಿಲ್ಲವೇ ? ಮತ್ತು ಈ ಕಂಟ್ರಾಕ್ಟ್ ಕೇರೇಜಿನಿಂದಲೂ ನಿಮ್ಮ ಸರ್ಕಾರೀ ಬಸ್ಸುಗಳಿಗೆ ನಷ್ಟವಾಗುವುದಿಲ್ಲವೇ ? ಮತ್ತು ಎಷ್ಟು ಕೇಸುಗಳನ್ನು ಹಿಡಿಯಲಾಗಿದೆ ?

Sri MOHAMED ALI.—Sir, the total number of fleet of the Road Transport Corporation is more than 2,800 whereas the contract carriages granted is only 192. It is not correct to say that more people are travelling by contract carriages. It is true that some of them are good. I do not know what fare they are charging. Certainly it is a good suggestion made by the hon. member that Road Transport Corporation should also provide better buses and better travelling facilities.

Sri V. N. PATIL.—How is it that the private buses are running full always and the Government buses are running empty ? Is it not a fact that the private operators start early and the Government buses late so that the private operators are given an upper hand to make better profit ?

Sri MOHAMED ALI.—Sir, I do not propose to say that our buses are running empty and I do not have that information. So far as Road Transport Corporation is concerned, it is making profit and the income is increasing. Last year also, it has made a profit of 8 per cent after payment of income tax, etc.

Mining Lease for Moulding sand in Ghataprabha River

251. Sri A. R. PANCHAGAVI (Arabhavi).—

Will the Minister for Industries, Information and Publicity be pleased to state:—

(*a*) whether there was any advertisement or publicity before granting the mining lease of sand in the river near Ghataprabha and Markandeya Villages in Gokak taluka ;

(*b*) whether the Government had offered this lease to the Panchayats or Municipality or other local bodies before granting it to private persons ;

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(*c*) whether it has come to the notice of the Government that this sand is being used for constructing houses and the lessee has been charging exhorbitant rates for private as well as Government buildings for their requirements of sand;

(*d*) the special qualifications or reasons for giving this lease to this person and his experience in mining;

(*e*) whether it has also come to the notice of Government that receipts are not passed in majority of sales;

(*f*) the amount of taxes and royalty recovered and steps Government has taken to see that there was no evasion of taxes in this transactions;

(*g*) the steps Government has taken to supply sand free of cost or at minimum cost for house building and industrial purposes?

Sri A. P. APPANNA (Deputy Minister for Industries).—

(*a*) No.

(*b*) No.

(*c*) Yes.

(*d*) The lease has been granted in accordance with the provisions of Mines and Minerals (Regulation and Development) Act, 1957 and Mineral Concessions Rules, 1960 as the lessee was the first applicant.

(*e*) No.

(*f*) The lessee has paid a sum of Rs. 2,816 for the year 1968. The accounts which are required to be maintained by the lessee are audited by the Department and amount due will be collected.

(g) Government cannot supply sand free of cost either for house building or industrial purposes.

Sri A. R PANCHAGAVI.—Sir, without advertising, without giving any publicity to others to apply and without offering it to public instructions like Panchayats and Municipalities, why is it that a particular person was given such a long lease?

† Sri A. P. APPANNA.—The Mineral Regulation Act has come into being in 1957, and it is open for anybody to apply for the same; and the Village Panchayat or any other institution could have applied from 1957 onwards. But this gentleman has come in 1968 to apply for a lease, and the Government has to grant the lease to any person who applies earlier.

ಶ್ರೀ ಬಿ. ಎಂ. ಸಾಣಿಕೊಪ್ಪ.—ನೂರಾರು ಟ್ರಕ್‌ಗಳಲ್ಲಿ ಪರವಾನಿಗೆ ಇಲ್ಲದೆ ತೆಗೆದುಕೊಂಡು ಹೋಗುತ್ತಿದ್ದಾರೆ. ಇದರಿಂದ ಸರ್ಕಾರಕ್ಕೆ ಬಹಳ ಲುಕ್ಸಾನು ಆಗುತ್ತದೆ. ಆದ್ದರಿಂದ ಇದರ ಬಗ್ಗೆ ಏನಾದರೂ ರೂಲ್ಸ್ ಮಾಡಿದ್ದೀರಾ? ಮತ್ತು ಸರ್ಕಾರದ ಗಮನಕ್ಕೆ ಈ ವಿಚಾರ ಬಂದಿದೆಯೇ?

Sri A. P. APPANNA.—This lease has been given under the Mineral Concession Rules of 1960. It is obligatory on the part of the Government to grant the lease for the first applicant. We are not getting any revenue from persons of other areas who have not applied.

Sri A. R. PANCHAGAVI.—Is the lessee allowed to charge any rate as he likes ?

Sri A. P. APPANNA.—Under the lease agreement he is authorised to sell all the consignment that is available under the mining lease to whomsoever he wishes. But, he must charge the fair market rate. If exhorbitant rates are charged, we will issue a notice not to charge exhorbitant rates, but we cannot control.

Sri A. R. PANCHAGAVI.—What precautions are taken by the Government to see that he is not charging exhorbitant rates or that he charges proper rates ?

Sri A. P. APPANNA.—He is supposed to maintain an account, which is audited by the Department for the purposes of royalty. So far as the price of the material is concerned, we have no exact control under law. He may charge a particular rate and say that it is a fair market rate.

Undergound Drainage in Hubli-Dharwar Corporation Area

255. Sri R. G. WALI (Hubli).—

Will the Minister of State for Municipal Administration be pleased to state :—

(*a*) the progress made in respect of underground drainage construction in Hubli-Dharwar Corporation area;

(*b*) whether Government is aware that the progress is very slow ;

(*c*) whether there are any difficulties coming in the way of immediate completion of the work of underground drainage ?

Sri B. M. PATIL (Minister of State for Municipal Administration).—

(*a*)—

Hubli Unit

(i) Laying of street sewer lines completed.

(ii) Laying of collective sewer lines completed.

(iii) Sewerage treatment works not taken.

Dharwar Unit

(i) Laying of underground drianage main lines and sewer lines completed.